

## The Edict of Milan

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shrunk from proclaiming it with his own lips, before the festivities at Milan were interrupted ie news that Maximin had thrown down the

of battle, Constantine and Licinius issued in joint names the famous Edict of Milan, which aimed for the first time in its absolute entirety lobe principle of complete religious toleration, iite their length, it will be well to give in full nore important clauses. They are found in the which has been happily preserved by Lactan-^ in the original Latin, while we also have the

in Greek in the *Ecclesiastical History* of Euse-(x. 5). It runs as follows:

nasmuch as we, Constantine Augustus and Licinius .stus, have met together at Milan on a joyful oc-n, and have discussed all that appertains to the c advantage and safety, we have come to the con-m that, among the steps likely to profit the majority inkind and demanding immediate attention, nothing >re necessary than to regulate the worship of the iity.

fe have decided, therefore, to grant both to the tians and to all others perfect freedom to practise eligion which each has thought best for himself, 10 whatever Divinity resides in heaven may be pla-, and rendered propitious to us and to all who have placed under our authority. Consequently, we thought this to be the policy demanded alike by tiy and sound reason—that no one, on any pretext jver, should be denied freedom to choose his re-i, whether he prefers the Christian religion or any

*t Mort. Per sec., c. 48.*